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Barshefsky, Glickman Express Disappointment on Canada Decision on U.S. Corn

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today expressed disappointment over the Canadian government's preliminary decision that U.S. corn exports are injuring Canadian corn producers.

"The Canadian government's finding that U.S. corn shipments have depressed Canadian corn prices is completely unsupported by the facts," Ambassador Barshefsky said.

"I am disappointed in the Canadian decision, as corn prices have declined all around the world and have hit farmers in the United States and Canadian farmers hard," Secretary Glickman said.

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal issued a preliminary finding Tuesday that U.S. corn exports are harming Canadian corn producers, despite the fact that corn production in Manitoba has nearly doubled since 1996 and U.S. corn shipments to Canada decreased in 1999 by about \$33 million.

"Given these numbers, we see no connection between U.S. exports and lower returns to Canadian producers," Ambassador Barshefsky said.

The United States said it would request that the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency postpone its decisions on the countervailing duty and antidumping investigations of this case. The 45-day delay from Nov. 7 would allow full consideration of the information already provided by the U.S. industry, as well as the state and federal governments.

"We will closely review this decision and others in this proceeding in light of Canada's obligations under WTO Agreements, and will continue to vigorously defend our producers in all aspects of these cases," Glickman said.